INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:	**SUBMITTED TO:**
This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location of a member of the Royal Air Force, during the Great War 1914-1921.	CWGC Commemorations Section Commonwealth War Graves Commission 2 Marlow Road Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7DX United Kingdom Email: commemorations@cwgc.org

Report Date: *5 April 2020*

Reason for Submission: *("X" means purpose of the report)*

Casualty Identification:		**Burial Information:**	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: *(# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)*

Casualty Identification:		**Burial Information:**	
Captain R. E. Dubber	i	Dormans French National	*link*
Lieutenant C. B. Dickie	i	Marne, France	i
107th Squadron RAF	i	Row C Graves 15 & 16	i
Death: 18 July 1918	*link*	Burial:	i
Graves Registration Report	1	War Diary Extract(s)	-
Concentration of Grave	2	Casualty Records	7
Exhumation Report	-	ICRC Record	-
Headstone Register	3	Grave Stone Inscription	-
Area Map(s)	4	Memorial Panel List	-
Trench Map(s)	5	Reporting and Review	8
Possible Candidates List	6	Other	-

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report Form for the Dormans French National Cemetery records two (2) "Unknown British Aviators" in graves 15 and 16 of row B, the British plot within the cemetery.

A detailed review of the history of British Air Services in the Great War tells us that Air Force casualties in the Reims sector would be specific to the Battles of the Aisne and Marne in May-July 1918. The casualty details provide clear evidence that the remains are those of Captain Roy Edward Dubber (Pilot) and Lieutenant Cecil Barron Dickie (Observer), 107th Squadron of the Royal Air Force, lost on 18 July 1918.

Preamble:

This case, as well as others that are reported as part of the 1918 German Spring Offensive (*Kaiserschlacht*), will benefit from an overview of the location of the Allied and Enemy forces at the time of the casualty. The offensive can be broken down into five (5) main enemy offensives, identified by date as:

1. Operation Michael, 21 March to 4 April 1918:
   The Somme Offensive
2. Operation Georgette, 9 April to 29 April 1918:
   The Lys Offensive
3. Operation Blücher–Yorck, 27 May to 4 June 1918:
   The Aisne Offensive (Third Battle of the Aisne)
4. Operation Gneisenau, 8 June to 12 June 1918:
   The Noyon-Montdidier Offensive (Battle of the Matz)
5. Operation Marneschutz-Reims/Friedensturm, 15 July to 17 July 1918:
   The Champagne-Marne Offensive (Second Battle of the Marne) – followed by the counterattack "Battle of Soissons" 18 July to 6 August 1918.

During this period, there were major shifts in the location of the enemy and Allied armies which enables a separation of events from other times during the Great War.

There are two (2) main categories of cases that relate to the Spring Offensive, each of which are dealt with in separate summary documents, namely:

- The Allied Armies on Land
- The British Air Services in the Air

The "*Unknown Case Studies*" that relate to the loss of airmen in the final stages of the five-month long German Spring Offensive, saw much of the concluding action down in the "*Reims Sector*". These more southern areas of the great battles in France are commonly referred to as the "*Third Battle of the Aisne*" and the "*Second Battle of the Marne*".

For the British Air Services we note that the Royal Air Force came into existence on 1 April 1918 in the middle of Operation Michael. That involved the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service. Information contained in this preamble for the British Air Services casualties is based primarily on:

1. **Official History of the War in the Air Vol. 6**, by W. Raleigh (Chapter 11 Prelude to Victory pages 399 to 415)

2. **Royal Flying Corps – Report of Casualties to Personnel and Machines when Flying** (UK National Archives, Held in AIR1 Category, devoted to WWI in the Air)

3. **The Sky their Battlefield II**, by T. Henshaw, supplemented with Squadron Histories prepared by the author.

The summary, which follows, covers the period for the RAF from 27 May 1918 until the British aircraft and airmen left the Southern Sector on 4 August 1918.

After the German onslaught on the British on the Somme in March (*Operation Michael*) and the Lys in April (*Operation Georgette*) there was an agreed swap of some French units in the Reims sector to the south with some of those who had suffered most in the north. It was expected things would be quiet in the south, providing some time for the units to recuperate and rebuild. By 6 May 1918 the British IX Corps had moved south, with 52 Squadron, who went to Fismes, 17 miles west of Reims. Accompanying them were RE8s to undertake reconnaissance and related missions.

The British air force units would operate under the French VI Army. Within 3 weeks, on this 'quiet' part of the Front, they were returning from reconnaissance's noting they had seen 'distant clouds of dust.' The French VI Army took no immediate action.

German bombardment began, in the **Third Battle of the Aisne** (Operation Blücher–Yorck), on 27 May 1918, a 27 mile front between Brimont and Leuilly. 52 Squadron had a torrid time – largely ignored by the French on the ground, and not set up to operate with them - and their aerodrome at Fismes got increasingly shelled. Germany had secreted in 12 fighter units to help their Offensive. 52 Squadron moved back to Cramaille on 27 May, then were ordered back to Anthenay/La Ferte on the 28th, and then Trecon on the 29th, in a dense cloud of confusion about their role and actions to be undertaken. Their action only began again on the 30th, when the Germans had reached the **Marne** on a 10 mile front, but the worst was over. Large quantities of French troops had been moved into the area, and the German advance had been halted. 52 Squadron, after resting at Trecon, from 19th to 30th June, moved to Auxi-le-Chateau on 30th/31st June to join III Brigade RAF, back up north, 30 miles west of Arras.

The casualties of 52 Squadron, the only active RAF unit in the area from 6 May to 4 June 1918, are summarized in the table that follows. The single entry for 18 June 1918 was a wireless operator who died of wounds at the later date. The only two with "No Known Grave" (NKG) were ground crew killed in the shelling of the aerodrome, some distance away from where the remains were recovered. Surnames of the deceased are linked to the CWGC database.

Surname	Initials	Death	Rank 52nd Sqdn.	Casualty Status
GREGORY	A F W	17/05	Captain	WIA - survived
ANTHONY	GR	27/05	Air Mechanic 1st Class	WIA - POW - survived
BEAUMONT	C C A	27/05	Second Lieutenant	BERRY-AU-BAC FRENCH NATIONAL CEMETERY
WHITEHOUSE	F	27/05	Second Lieutenant	BERRY-AU-BAC FRENCH NATIONAL CEMETERY
COFFEY	C R	27/05	Lieutenant	ARRAS FLYING SERVICES MEMORIAL * ground casualty at aerodrome
CRICHTON	G A	27/05	Corporal	ARRAS FLYING SERVICES MEMORIAL * ground casualty at aerodrome
BRAITHWAITE	M	30/05	Air Mechanic 2nd Class	VERTUS COMMUNAL CEMETERY

Surname	Initials	Death	Rank 52nd Sqdn.	Casualty Status
BENTON	J W	30/05	Second Lieutenant	WIA – died of wounds TERLINCTHUN BRITISH CEMETERY, WIMILLE
NUGENT	A	01/06	Second Lieutenant	TERLINCTHUN BRITISH CEMETERY, WIMILLE
ROSS	G A B	01/06	Lieutenant	TERLINCTHUN BRITISH CEMETERY, WIMILLE
WILLIAMSON	R	18/06	Air Mechanic 2nd Class	MOULINS-SUR-ALLIER COMMUNAL CEMETERY *died of wounds

The Battle of The Matz.

The RAF next got involved down on "The French Lines" as The Battle of The Matz developed. In early June Foch was alerting the British to the likelihood of German moves and attack on the Montdidier-Noyon front, south-east of Amiens. He pleaded for British fighting and bombing strength in the area of Nesle-Roye. On 9th June (date as per Official History) the British replied with an offer of help from air units of the IV Army, which had recently been bolstered. On the **2nd June**, the British had already acted, and sent several squadrons south, to around Beauvais – these were **Nos. 27, 32, 49, 73, 103, 2AFC, 43 and 80 Squadrons** (p.401), together with HQs of 9th and 51st Wing RAF. By 5th June, the RAF Bombing units were attacking Roye, to the north-east, then later Ham, and Nesle, near St Quentin.

The German Offensive began on 9th June, between Montdidier and Noyon (Operation Gneisenau). There was notable confusion between the British aircraft and the French aircraft and men on the ground – all known to have fired upon one another.

With concerns about the growing likelihood on a new German attack on the British Lines to the north, a request was made for the 9th Wing to return to British areas, and on the 21st June the Squadrons of 9th Wing RAF moved north again. This involved all of the units noted above leaving the French Sector. Those British Units were only down in the French Sector between **2nd June and 18th June**. In those 17 days, across the whole Western Front there were **23** individual airmen involved in fighting and "***Killed In Action resulting in NKG***". Of those, **11** British airmen were lost Killed and NKG down with 9th Wing RAF, with the French. The list and analysis below, illustrates how all of these individuals were lost in fighting 60 to 75 miles northwest of where the original graves of the two airmen – about whom this report is written – were found down near Dormans.

Surname	Initials	Death	Rank	Squadron	KIA NKG location
CUNNINGHAM	M F	06/06	Lieutenant	27th	Chaulnes 65 mi NW Dormans
STOCKINS	W J	06/06	Second Lieutenant	27th	Chaulnes 65 mi NW Dormans
HARVEY	T F	07/06	Lieutenant	49th	Noyon 75 mi NW Dormans

Surname	Initials	Death	Rank	Squadron	KIA NKG location
McEWAN	G C	07/06	Lieutenant	49th	Noyon 75 mi NW Dormans
BARING	R A	09/06	Second Lieutenant	73rd	60 mi NW Dormans
McGEE	W R	11/06	Lieutenant	103rd	75 mi NW Dormans
THOMPSON	H	11/06	Second Lieutenant	103rd	75 mi NW Dormans
HAMMOND	T J	12/06	Lieutenant (AFC)	2nd AFC	Noyon 75 mi NW Dormans
MELBOURNE	A R	14/06	Second Lieutenant	80th	60 mi NW Dormans
HIRST	S	16/06	Second Lieutenant	103rd	Roye 60 mi NW Dormans
HUGHES	J M	16/06	Lieutenant	103rd	Roye 60 mi NW Dormans

The Second Battle of the Marne

The Official History of the War in the Air (Vol.6) tells us that on the 10th July, after some three to four weeks in which the RAF units that had returned to the British Lines, and been involved in some significant bombing, and other raids opposite Arras and Lens, some more concerned fears had been expressed by Gen Foch about growing German activity in the Champagne region. On 13th July he sent an urgent directive to Haig to get some promised air support down to the French Lines in the Champagne as soon as possible. Through heavy hailstorms and strife, on **14th – 15th July 1918**, nine RAF Squadrons flew south, to airfields at Roznoy-en-Brie, Orneaux, Pezarches, and Chailly-en-Brie. These were grouped some 30-40 miles east of Paris. The units that flew down on the 14/15th were **Nos. 27, 32, 43, 49, 54, 73, 80, 98 and 107 Squadrons** (p.412), along with IX Brigade HQ, who opened with the French Group of Armies of the Centre. **82** Squadron also came south, on 17th July, to Haussimont, south of Reims.

The Germans launched their Offensive on Sunday July 14th, but three days later, the Germans had only advanced a maximum of 6 miles. Foch launched a tentative counter-offensive on July 18th, and with its success the Germans ordered a withdrawal three days later, on July 21st. By August, the German gains made in their May and June Offensives had been lost. Around **3rd and 4th August** all the RAF units headed back up to Aerodromes back in the British Sectors (eg. 107 Squadron were at Chailly-en-Brie from 15 July to 2 August 1918, before heading back up north to Ecoivres, west of Arras on 3 August 1918.)

Those British Units supporting and fighting in the Second Battle of the Marne were only down in the French Sector this time between **14th July and 4th August**. In those 22 days, across the whole Western Front there were **27** individual airmen involved in fighting and "***Killed In Action resulting in NKG***". Of those, **14** British airmen were lost Killed and NKG down with IX Brigade RAF, whilst operating with the French.

In Chronological order, these are the details of the events applicable to these specific losses in the Air War down south, between those dates.

Surname	Initials	Death	Rank	Squadron	KIA NKG location
BABBITT	T E	15/07	Second Lieutenant	43rd Sqdn.	Dormans
JAMES	R A	16/07	Captain	54th Sqdn.	Dormans
SPENCE	J H	16/07	Lieutenant	54th Sqdn.	Courthiézy
MORTON	E B G	16/07	Captain	98th Sqdn.	Château-Thierry
SHAW	F A	16/07	Lieutenant	98th Sqdn.	Château-Thierry
DICKIE	C B	18/07	Lieutenant	107th Sqdn.	Fère-en-Tardenois
DUBBER	R E	18/07	Captain	107th Sqdn.	Fère-en-Tardenois
ANDERSON	W A	18/07	Lieutenant	32nd Sqdn.	Grisolles
IRVINE	V R V T	19/07	Lieutenant	43rd Sqdn.	Château-Thierry
FISHER	B	21/07	Second Lieutenant	54th Sqdn.	Château-Thierry
ARMSTRONG	W A	25/07	Second Lieutenant	73rd Sqdn.	Fismes
COTTON	E	25/07	Second Lieutenant	73rd Sqdn.	Fismes
LEWIS	R F	25/07	Lieutenant	73rd Sqdn.	Fismes
SYMONS	K W A	30/07	Lieutenant	73rd Sqdn.	Fère-en-Tardenois

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Row B Graves 15 & 16 of the Dormans French National Cemetery are those of Captain Roy Edward Dubber and Lieutenant Cecil Barron Dickie, both killed during the fifth and final phase of the 1918 German Spring Offensive (the *Kaiserschlacht*). This period included *Operation Blücher*, the Third Battle of the Aisne (27 May 1918 – 6 June 1918) and *Operation Marneschutz-Reims/Friedensturm*, the Second Battle of the Marne (15 July 1918 – 6 August 1918). There is no other period during the Great War when the British air services (RFC, RNAS, or RAF) were active in this area.

The findings are based on the following:

1. The *Graves Registration Report Form* (GRRF) for the Dormans French National Cemetery lists an "Unknown British Aviator" in Row B Grave 15 and an "Unknown British Officer Aviator" in Row B Grave 16 (Attachment #1). The form originally had the date of "18-6-18" beside the entry from grave B.15, however this was struck out. All other entries on the GRRF are for the period from May to July 1918 and each one has some form of correction. A review of the CWGC records confirms that the date of 18 June 1918 was incorrect, as there were no missing aviators in that sector on that date (CWGC Link). Neither the 3rd nor 56th Squadron was in the Reims sector at that time. Expanding the date from the 16th to 18th of June gives similar results (CWGC Link).

2. The *Concentration of Graves Burial Return* (COG-BR) indicates that the two (2) Unknown Aviators were found more or less in the same location at Trench Map Coordinates (TMC) of DORMANS 1:20000 **209.2.x 267.3** and **209.0 x 267.3** (Attachment #2). The aviator buried in grave Row B Grave 15 was wearing an Air Force uniform, which was noted as being "apparently an officer" but also noting that no rank badge was found. The second aviator buried in Row B Grave 16 also had an Air Force uniform, however in this case there was a rank badge, reported as a "ring round sleeve". Most importantly, the second aviator's uniform had regimental buttons of the Royal Highlanders. The COG-BR also notes that a cross was found on each grave but there are no details as to what was inscribed on the cross. Unlike the GRRF document, the date entry for grave B.15, showing "18/6/18" has not been struck out.

3. The *Comprehensive Report of Headstone Descriptions* (HD-SCHD) reports that the remains in Row B Grave 15 are those of "AN AIRMAN" of the Great War, classed as an "UNKNOWN OFFICER" (Attachment #3a). The same is reported for the airman in Row B Grave 16 (Attachment #3b). There is no date of death recorded. As there have been no modifications to the HD-SCHD, we can assume that the unknown airman have remained unidentified for the past 102 years.

4. A *Google Earth Map* has been provided to show the location where the remains of the two aviators were recovered, converted to the modern GPS coordinates of **49° 8'0.32"N 3°44'33.79"E** (Attachment #4). This location is approximately 13 miles southeast of Fère-en-Tardenois and 6 miles northeast of Dormans. For reference to the detailed mapping, this is 1.4 miles west of Cuisles.

As detailed in the preamble, Trevor Henshaw's review of the records of all airmen with "No Known Grave" (NKG) in the vicinity of Dormans provides clear evidence that they were all lost in July 1918 (The Sky their Battlefield II).

5. A *Detailed Trench Map* of the area from which the two sets of remains were recovered shows the centralized location at **DORMANS 1/20000 267 x 209** (Attachment #5). There is only a slight variation in the specific coordinates for the two sets of remains. The trench map is from the collection of the French National Archives and in particular the 1/20000 Series. The direct reference to the map is "31 Fi 87 – Dormans". For those not familiar with the use of the French Trench Maps, please see "Using French Trench Maps in the Unknown Project".

6. A *Possible Candidates List* was developed using the CWGC database for the period 1 May 1918 to 31 July 1918. During this period there are 103 airmen listed on the Arras Flying Services Memorial, the last two (2) lost on 30 July 1918. As detailed in the preamble, we know from that air action in the Aisne-Marne Sector of France was restricted to the period from May to July 1918, with the 52nd Squadron RAF being the first on the scene at Fismes, 14 miles to the west-northwest of Reims.

   The primary candidates for aviator remains in the DORMANS sector would be those named on the Arras Flying Services Memorial related to the final German offensive on the Marne from 15 July 1918 to 30 July 1918. From the list of twenty-four (24) aviators on the memorial for that period only fourteen (14) were known to be in the Aisne-Marne sector (Attachment #6a).

   The review of the COG-BR had already told us that the Unknown Aviator in Row B Grave 16 was wearing a uniform with buttons of the Royal Highlanders. That would be the regiment officially known as "Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)". A review of the CWGC database tells us that there were eight (8) men in the Royal Flying Corps or Royal Air Force that had a secondary regiment affiliation with Royal Highlanders, lost in France and named on the Arras Flying Services Memorial (Attachment #6b).

   Only two aviators on the Royal Highlanders list were lost in 1918, which narrows the list down to Second Lieutenant Skinner (46th Squadron) or Lieutenant Dickie 107th Squadron). From this information we can conclude that the Unknown Aviator in Row B Grave 16 was Lieutenant Cecil Baron Dickie of the 107th Squadron, the only one of the two noted squadrons above that ever operated in the Reims Sector. The 46th Squadron, thus Second Lieutenant Skinner, was never in this area at any time during the Great War.

   Lieutenant James Hamilton Spence of the 54th Squadron, Royal Air Force is the subject of a separate report that has been submitted to the CWGC Commemorations Team.

   The identity of the Unknown Aviator in Row B Grave 15 was not enhanced by the same strong evidence provided for Lieutenant Dickie in Row B Grave 16. We do

know that the date that was on the GRRF of 18 June 1918 was struck out and that there was no date provided on the HD-SCHD, confirming that the date of "18/6/18" shown on the COG-BR had been dismissed. A review of the CWGC database also tells us that on that date (18 June 1918) there were only three (3) aviators lost on the Western Front with no known grave (CWGC Link). One airman was from the 3rd Squadron and two from the 103rd Squadron. None of these squadrons were anywhere near the Reims Sector of France during the 1918 German Spring Offensive, specifically Operation Marneschutz-Reims/Friedensturm.

With the corrected date of 18 July 1918, to match the burial in Row B Grave16 at the same location, we have only three (3) candidates (CWGC LINK). We know that Lieutenant Dickie is in grave B.16 so it would be logical that Captain Dubber, his fellow crew member, is in B.15, both of **107th** Squadron. The "third man" is Lieutenant Anderson of **32nd** Squadron, which is on our July Squadron list as well, however he was lost in action more than 17 miles west of where the remains were recovered.

7. The *Casualty Records* provide additional details on the fate of each of the candidate airmen on the short list, as well as others relevant to this case (Attachment #7).

   The location details are provided in the casualty report for Captain Dubber and Lieutenant Dickie (Attachment #7a). As there is no indication of where the aircraft crashed or set down, the only information that we have is that they left the aerodrome at Chailly-en-Brie in DH9 No. D5684 at 6:33 am on a bombing raid, which other AIR1 documents show was centred on Courmont-Fère-en-Tardenois. From the information already gleaned, we do know that the location of the remains would be near **TMC DORMANS 209 x 267**, as that is where Lieutenant Dickie was found.

   Lieutenant Mollet and Lieutenant Rawlings, also of the 107th Squadron, have a very similar casualty report (Attachment #7b). They too left the same aerodrome at 6:33 am, also on a bombing raid, and were later reported missing and no further details were available. Unlike Captain Dubber and Lieutenant Dickie, the remains of Lieutenants Mollet and Rawlings were recovered and buried in the Vailly British Cemetery. They were recovered at **TMC FISMES 272.9 x 206.1**, which place them on the east side of Vezilly, approximately 5 miles northwest of Cuisles. That location is 4.3 miles northwest of where the remains of the B.15 and B.16 remains, on the flight path between Fère-en-Tardenois and Cuisles. That location marks where the bodies of Mollet and Rawlings were buried and not necessarily where the remains were recovered from the battlefield. There is no record of either Mollet (ICRC Record) or Rawlings (ICRC Record) being captured or buried by the Germans.

   The CWGC reports another "unknown Canadian airman" in the Vailly British Cemetery, who did not appear on our list on missing. That airman had been

concentrated from the Braine French Military Cemetery, located approximately 18 miles northwest of Dormans French National Cemetery. A review of that entry revealed that the Canadian airman had been identified as Lieutenant Robert Ellaby Meredith who had served in the 16th Canadian Infantry Battalion (Canadian Scottish) prior to his service with the 43rd Squadron RAF.

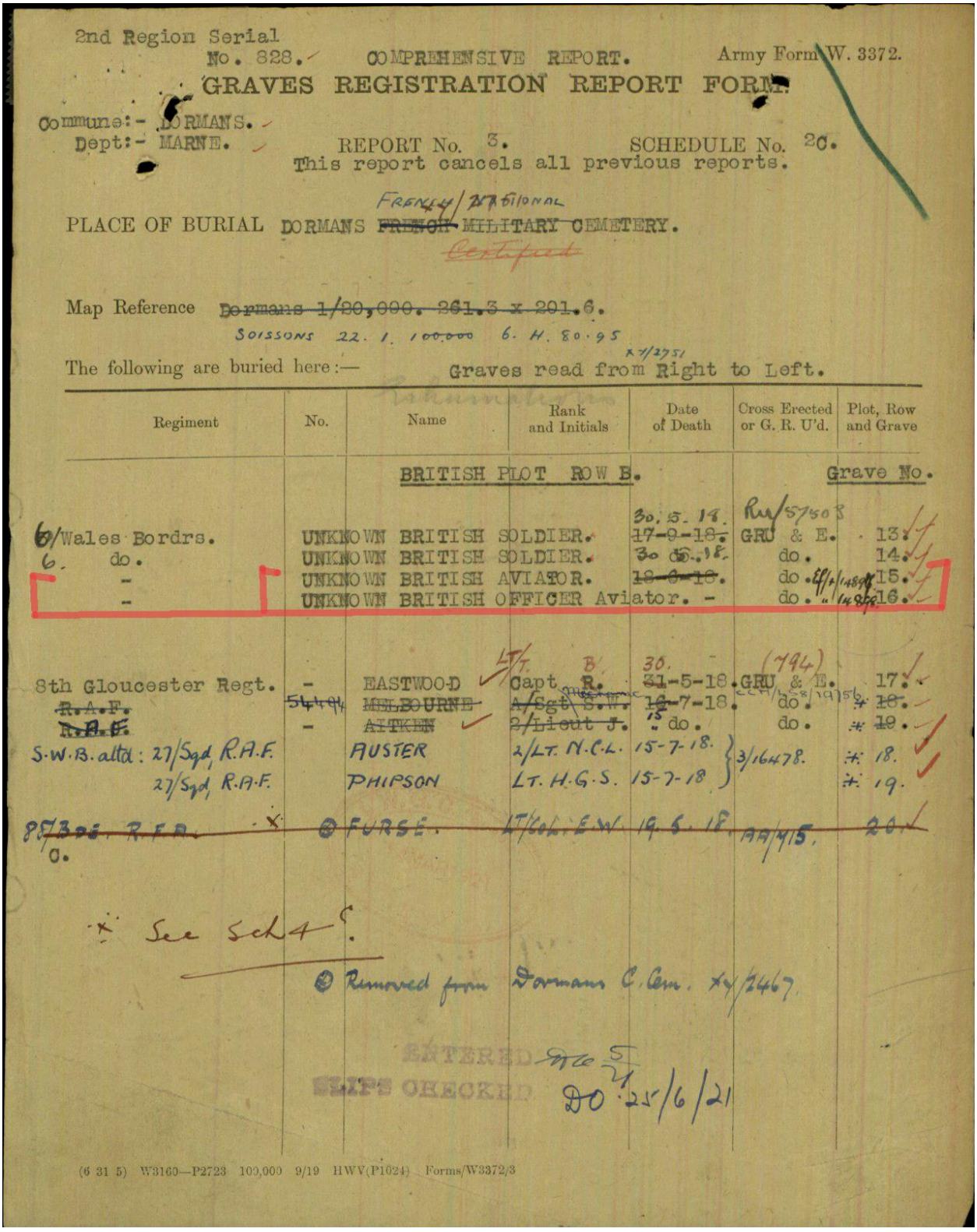
Action Required:

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #8).

The detailed review of the history of the British Air Services, coupled with the analysis of the casualty records, provides clear evidence that the two "Unknown British Aviators" in Row B Graves 15 and 16 of the Dormans French National Cemetery are Captain Roy Edward Dubber (Pilot) and Lieutenant Cecil Barron Dickie (Observer), 107th Squadron of the Royal Air Force. All other candidates have been eliminated.

ATTACHMENT #1

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Graves Registration Report Form*.
https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2254167.JPG



2nd Region Serial No. 828. COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Commune:- DORMANS.
Dept:- MARNE.

REPORT No. 3. SCHEDULE No. 20.
This report cancels all previous reports.

PLACE OF BURIAL DORMANS ~~FRENCH~~ ~~MILITARY~~ CEMETERY.
FRENCH/NATIONAL
Certified

Map Reference ~~Dormans 1/80,000. 361.3 x 201.6.~~
SOISSONS 22. I. 100,000 6. H. 80.95

The following are buried here:— Graves read from Right to Left. X-1/2751

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
		BRITISH PLOT ROW B.				Grave No.
6/Wales Bordrs.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		30.5.18. ~~17-9-18.~~	Ru/5750 GRU & E.	13.
6. do.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		~~30 do. 18.~~	do.	14.
-		UNKNOWN BRITISH AVIATOR.		~~18-6-18.~~	do. Ef/1/1484	15.
-		UNKNOWN BRITISH OFFICER Aviator.	-		do. " 1484	16.
8th Gloucester Regt.	-	EASTWOOD	Capt R.	~~31~~-5-18.	GRU & E. (794)	17.
~~R.A.F.~~	~~54104~~	~~MELBOURNE~~	~~A/Sgt S.W.~~	~~18~~-7-18.	do.	~~18.~~
~~R.A.F.~~	-	~~AITKEN~~	~~2/Lieut J.~~	do.	do.	~~19.~~
S.W.B. attd: 27/Sqd, R.A.F.		AUSTER	2/LT. N.C.L.	15-7-18.	3/16478.	~~18.~~
27/Sqd, R.A.F.		PHIPSON	LT. H.G.S.	15-7-18		~~19.~~
~~8/3 Bde. R.F.A.~~ C.		~~FURSE.~~	~~LT/Col. E.W.~~	~~19.6.18.~~	~~AA/415.~~	~~20.~~

X See Sch 4.

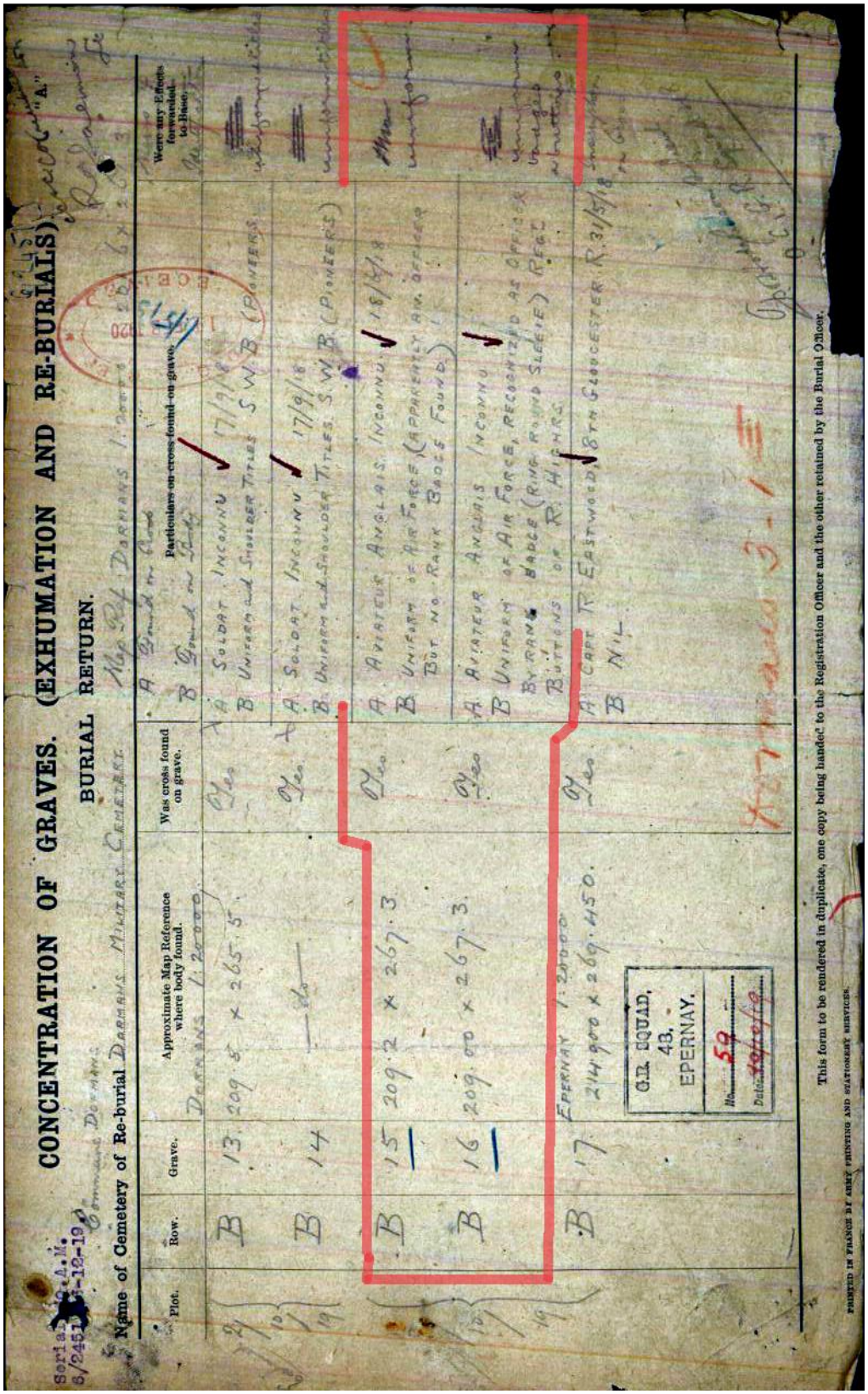
@ Removed from Dormans C. Cem. X4/2467

ENTERED Sch 5
SLIPS CHECKED DO 25/6/21

(6 31 5) W3160—P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV(P1024) Forms/W3372/3

ATTACHMENT #2

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return*. https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc1996165.JPG



CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES. (EXHUMATION AND RE-BURIALS).

BURIAL RETURN.

Name of Cemetery of Re-burial Dormans Military Cemetery

Plot.	Row.	Grave.	Approximate Map Reference where body found.	Was cross found on grave.	Particulars on cross found on grave.	Were any Effects forwarded to Base.
	B	13	Dormans 1:20000. 209.8 × 265.5.	Yes	A. Soldat Inconnu 17/9/18 B. Uniform and Shoulder Titles S.W.B. (Pioneers)	
	B	14	—do—	Yes	A. Soldat Inconnu 17/9/18 B. Uniform and Shoulder Titles S.W.B. (Pioneers)	
	B	15	209.2 × 267.3	Yes	A. Aviateur Anglais Inconnu. 18/9/18 B. Uniform of Air Force (Apparently an Officer But no Rank Badge Found)	
	B	16	209.00 × 267.3.	Yes	A. Aviateur Anglais Inconnu B. Uniform of Air Force, Recognized as Officer By Rank Badge (Ring Round Sleeve) R.F.C. Buttons of R.H.G.	
	B	17	Epernay 1:20000 214.900 × 269.450.	Yes	A. Capt. R. Eastwood, 8th Gloucester R. 31/5/18 B. Nil.	

G.R. SQUAD. 43. EPERNAY. No. 59 Date 19/5/19

This form to be rendered in duplicate, one copy being handed to the Registration Officer and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

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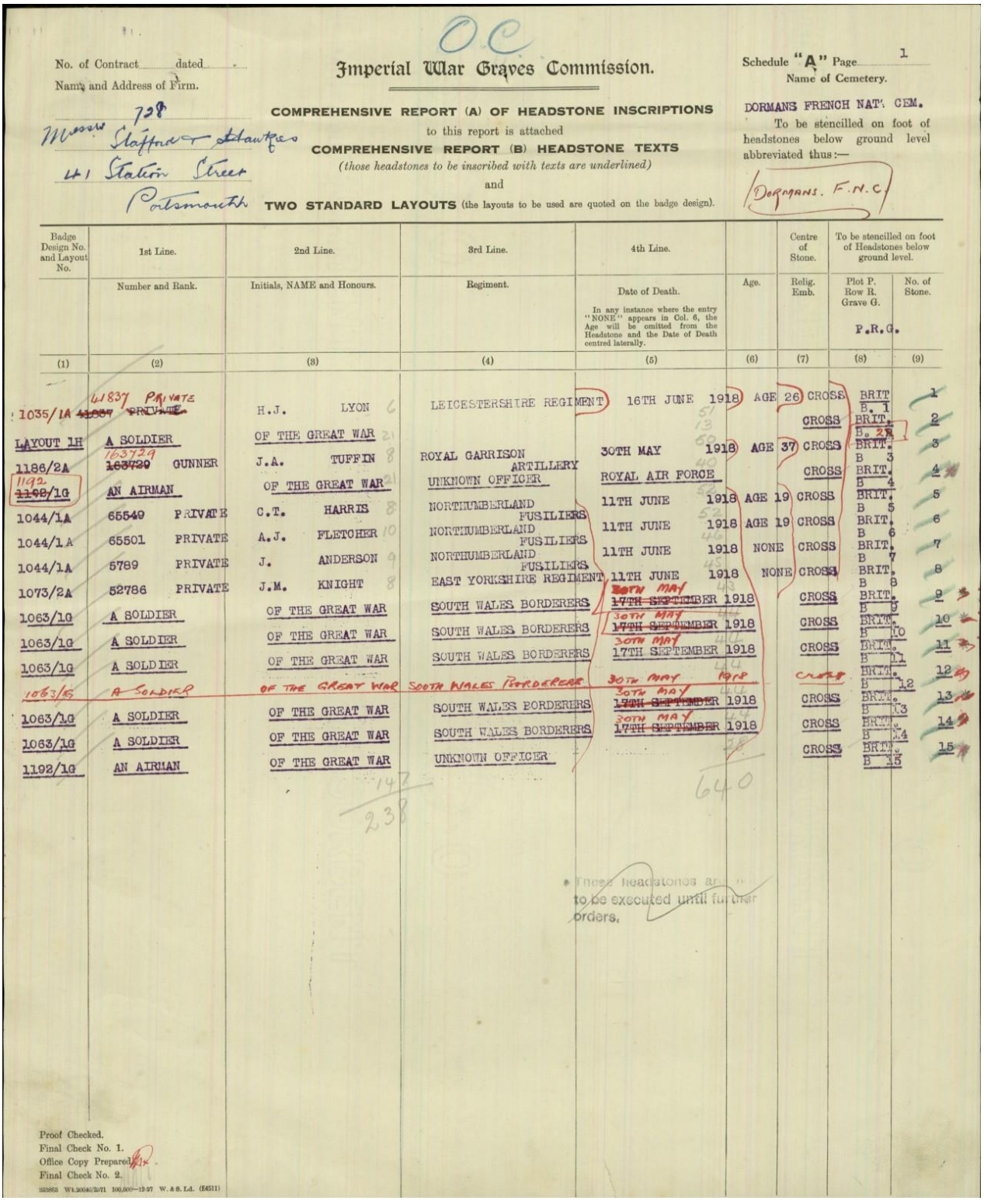
ATTACHMENT #3a

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Comprehensive Report (A) of Headstone Inscriptions*. https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2093933.JPG - last entry



OC

No. of Contract dated
Name and Address of Firm.
728
Messrs Stafford & Hawkes
41 Station Street
Portsmouth

Imperial War Graves Commission.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS
to this report is attached
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS
(those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)
and
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

Schedule "A" Page 1
Name of Cemetery.
DORMANS FRENCH NAT'L CEM.
To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:—
DORMANS. F.N.C

Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st Line. Number and Rank.	2nd Line. Initials, NAME and Honours.	3rd Line. Regiment.	4th Line. Date of Death. In any instance where the entry "NONE" appears in Col. 6, the Age will be omitted from the Headstone and the Date of Death centred laterally.	Age.	Centre of Stone. Relig. Emb.	To be stencilled on foot of Headstones below ground level. Plot P. Row R. Grave G. P.R.G.	No. of Stone.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1035/1A	~~41837~~ 41837 PRIVATE	H.J. LYON	LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	16TH JUNE 1918	AGE 26	CROSS	BRIT. B. 1	1
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR				CROSS	BRIT. B. 2	2
1186/2A	~~163729~~ 163729 GUNNER	J.A. TUFFIN	ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY	30TH MAY 1918	AGE 37	CROSS	BRIT. B 3	3
~~1192/1G~~ 1192	AN AIRMAN	OF THE GREAT WAR	UNKNOWN OFFICER	ROYAL AIR FORCE		CROSS	BRIT. B 4	4
1044/1A	65549 PRIVATE	C.T. HARRIS	NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS	11TH JUNE 1918	AGE 19	CROSS	BRIT. B 5	5
1044/1A	65501 PRIVATE	A.J. FLETCHER	NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS	11TH JUNE 1918	AGE 19	CROSS	BRIT. B 6	6
1044/1A	5789 PRIVATE	J. ANDERSON	NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS	11TH JUNE 1918	NONE	CROSS	BRIT. B 7	7
1073/2A	52786 PRIVATE	J.M. KNIGHT	EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT	11TH JUNE 1918	NONE	CROSS	BRIT. B 8	8
1063/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	SOUTH WALES BORDERERS	~~17TH SEPTEMBER 1918~~ 30TH MAY		CROSS	BRIT. B 9	9
1063/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	SOUTH WALES BORDERERS	~~17TH SEPTEMBER 1918~~ 30TH MAY		CROSS	BRIT. B 10	10
1063/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	SOUTH WALES BORDERERS	17TH SEPTEMBER 1918 30TH MAY		CROSS	BRIT. B 11	11
1063/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	SOUTH WALES BORDERERS	30TH MAY 1918		CROSS	BRIT. B 12	12
1063/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	SOUTH WALES BORDERERS	~~17TH SEPTEMBER 1918~~ 30TH MAY		CROSS	BRIT. B 13	13
1063/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	SOUTH WALES BORDERERS	~~17TH SEPTEMBER 1918~~ 30TH MAY		CROSS	BRIT. B 14	14
1192/1G	AN AIRMAN	OF THE GREAT WAR	UNKNOWN OFFICER			CROSS	BRIT. B 15	15

These headstones are not to be executed until further orders.

Proof Checked.
Final Check No. 1.
Office Copy Prepared
Final Check No. 2.

ATTACHMENT #3b

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Comprehensive Report (A) of Headstone Inscriptions*. https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2093935.JPG - first entry

No. of Contract ..... dated .....
Name and Address of Firm.

Imperial War Graves Commission.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS
to this report is attached
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS
(those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)
and
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

Schedule "A" Page 2
Name of Cemetery.
DORMANS FRENCH NAT. CEM.
To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:—
DORMANS. F.N.C.

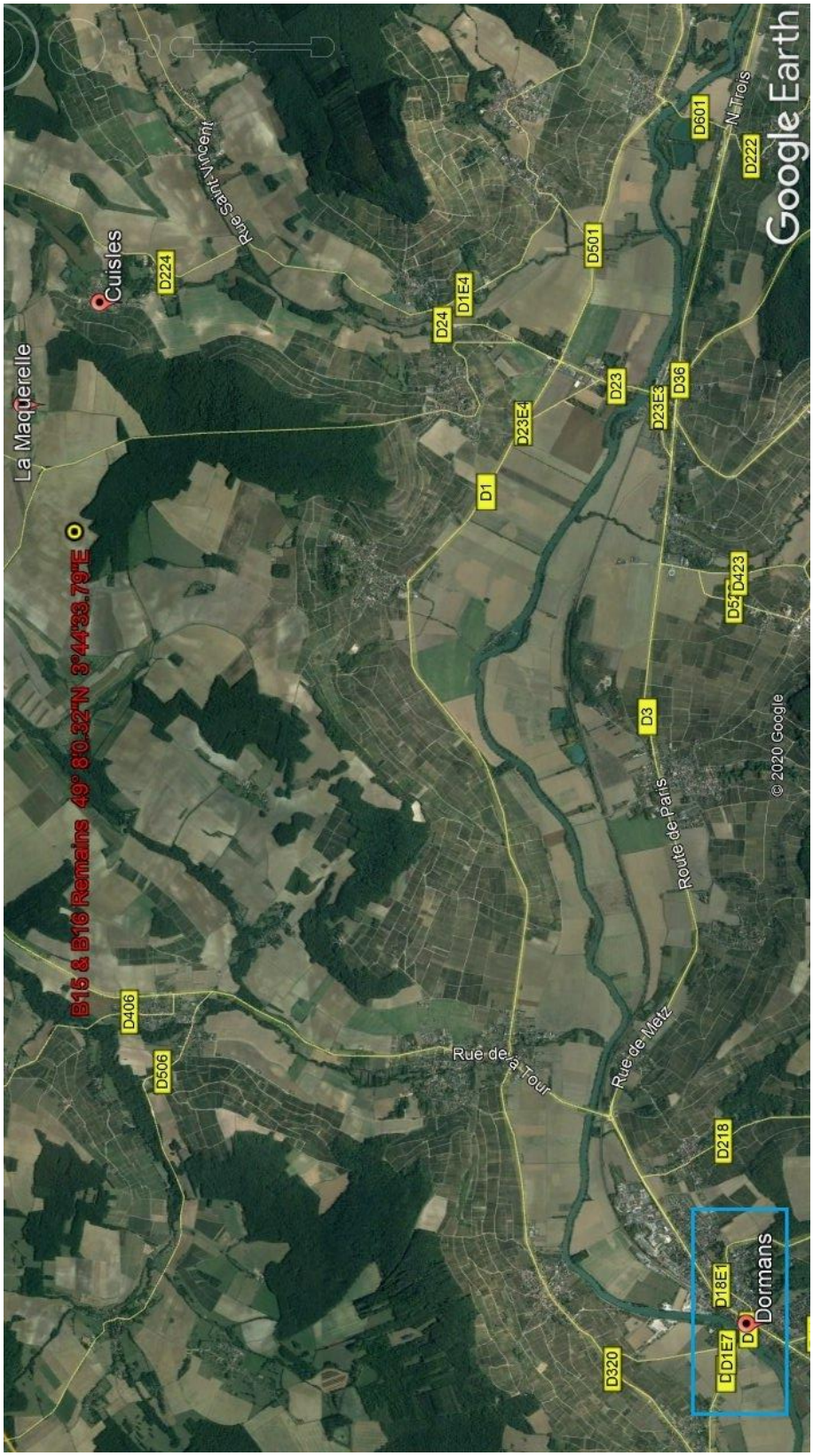
Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st Line. Number and Rank.	2nd Line. Initials, NAME and Honours.	3rd Line. Regiment.	4th Line. Date of Death. In any instance where the entry "NONE" appears in Col. 6, the Age will be omitted from the Headstone and the Date of Death centred laterally.	Age.	Centre of Stone. Relig. Emb.	To be stencilled on foot of Headstones below ground level. Plot P. Row R. Grave G.	No. of Stone.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1192/1C	AN AIRMAN	OF THE GREAT WAR	UNKNOWN OFFICER			CROSS	BRIT. B. 16	16
1019/1A	CAPTAIN	B. EASTWOOD, MC.	GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT	30TH MAY 1918	NONE	CROSS	BRIT. B 17	17
1192/1T/D	SECOND LIEUTENANT	N.C.L. AUSTER	(FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. T.)				BRIT. B 18	18
1192/1C	LIEUTENANT	H.G.S. PHIPSON	ROYAL AIR FORCE	16TH JULY 1918	AGE 24	CROSS	BRIT. B 19	19
1186/2A	LIEUTENANT COLONEL	E.W. FURSE	ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY	19TH MAY 1918	AGE 41	CROSS	BRIT. B 20	20
1192/1A	54494 SERJEANT	S.W. MELBOURNE	ROYAL AIR FORCE	16TH JULY 1918	NONE	CROSS	10 14	21
1192/1A	SECOND LIEUTENANT	J. AITKEN	ROYAL AIR FORCE	16TH JULY 1918	NONE	CROSS	10 20	22

Proof Checked.
Final Check No. 1.
Office Copy Prepared.
Final Check No. 2.

353663 W1.20040/2/71 100,000—12-17 W. & S. Ld. (E4511)

ATTACHMENT #4

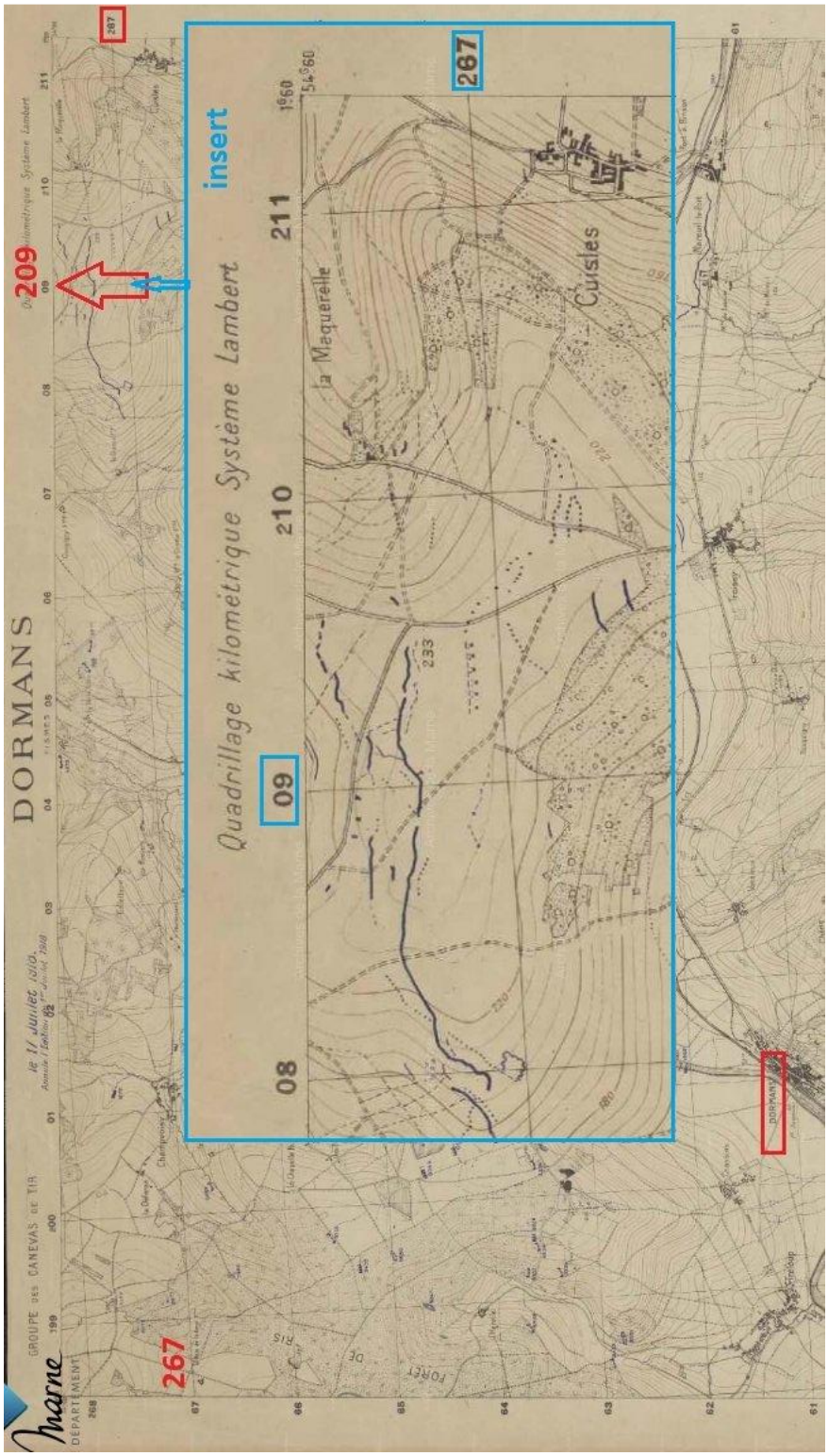
Area Map – Google Earth Pro. Location of recovered remains north of Dormans France (Reims Sector).



ATTACHMENT #5

Cartes militaires. Canevas de tir, guerre 1914-1918 (31 Fi). Dormans. Service géographique de l'Armée]. 1918. The French National Archives Map Listings - 1/20000 Trench Map Listings - Dormans 1918

For information on accessing the on-line map collection of the France Archives, please see:
Using French Trench Maps in the Unknown Project



ATTACHMENT #6a

Information Sources:

1. Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Casualty Record: United Kingdom Forces Served in Air Force.
2. Royal Flying Corps – Report of Casualties to Personnel and Machines when Flying, UK National Archives, Held in AIR 1 Category.

Surname	Initials	Death	Rank	Squadron	KIA NKG location
BABBITT	T E	15/07	Second Lieutenant	43rd Sqdn.	Dormans
JAMES	R A	16/07	Captain	54th Sqdn.	Dormans
SPENCE	J H	16/07	Lieutenant	54th Sqdn.	Courthiézy
MORTON	E B G	16/07	Captain	98th Sqdn.	Château-Thierry
SHAW	F A	16/07	Lieutenant	98th Sqdn.	Château-Thierry
DICKIE	C B	18/07	Lieutenant	107th Sqdn.	Fère-en-Tardenois
DUBBER	R E	18/07	Captain	107th Sqdn.	Fère-en-Tardenois
ANDERSON	W A	18/07	Lieutenant	32nd Sqdn.	Grisolles
IRVINE	V R V T	19/07	Lieutenant	43rd Sqdn.	Château-Thierry
FISHER	B	21/07	Second Lieutenant	54th Sqdn.	Château-Thierry
ARMSTRONG	W A	25/07	Second Lieutenant	73rd Sqdn.	Fismes
COTTON	E	25/07	Second Lieutenant	73rd Sqdn.	Fismes
LEWIS	R F	25/07	Lieutenant	73rd Sqdn.	Fismes
SYMONS	K W A	30/07	Lieutenant	73rd Sqdn.	Fère-en-Tardenois

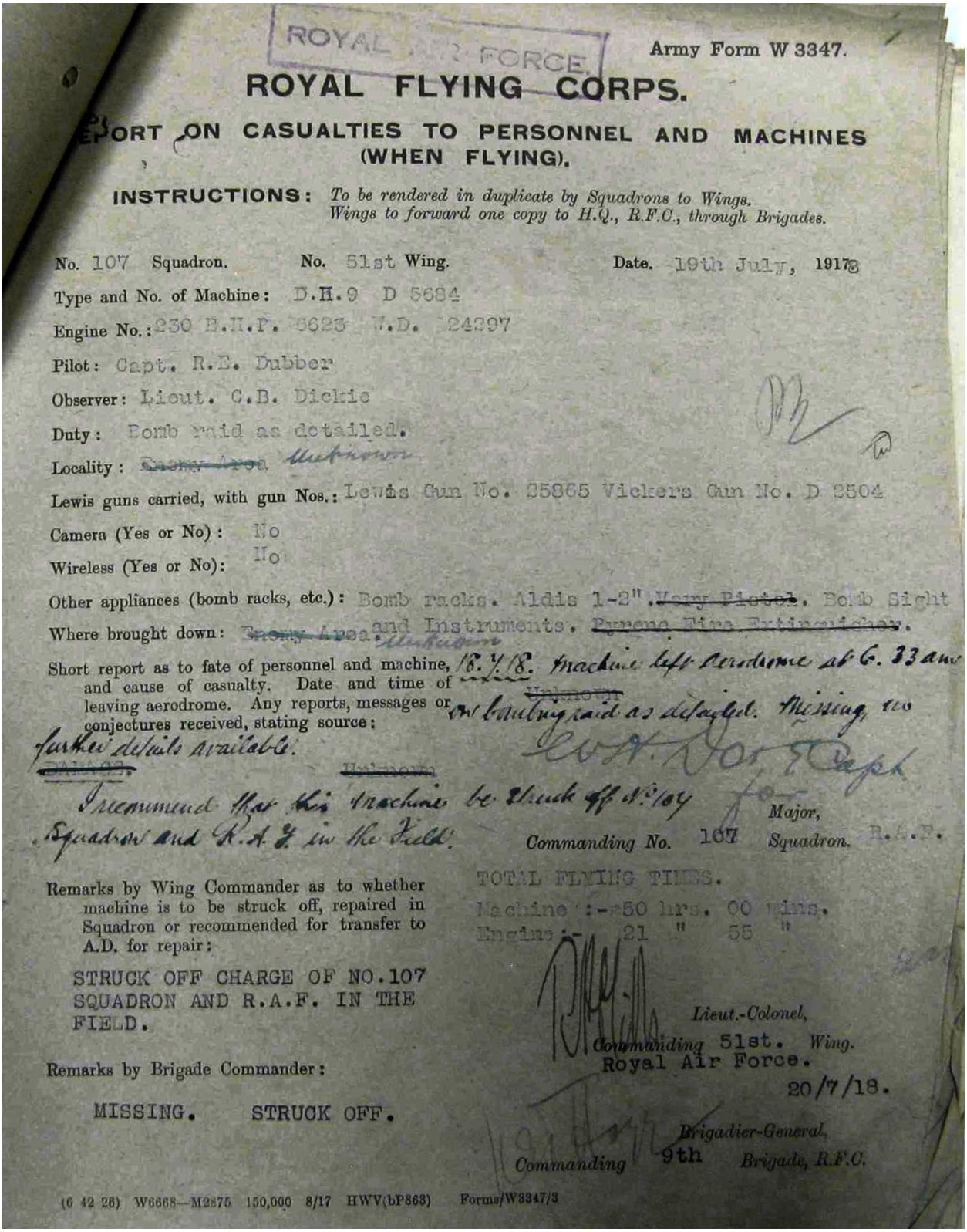
ATTACHMENT #6b

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Casualty Record: United Kingdom Forces Served in Air Force. Served in the Royal Flying Corps, Royal Naval Air Service or the Royal Airforce with an affiliation to the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) and having No Known Grave.

McCASH Lieutenant	JOHN WATSON	23 November 1917 Age 24	VIEW RECORD 3rd Sqdn. RFC
WILSON Second Lieutenant	JOHN COOPER	17 October 1916 Age 28	VIEW RECORD 23rd Sqdn. RFC
DICKIE Lieutenant	CECIL BARRON	18 July 1918 Age 20	VIEW RECORD 107th Sqdn. RAF
MEARNS Captain	ANGUS HUGHES	24 June 1917 Age 22	VIEW RECORD 57th Sqdn. RFC
SKINNER Second Lieutenant	ROBERT LEONARD GRAHAME	03 May 1918 Age 20	VIEW RECORD 46th Sqdn. RAF
SMITH Second Lieutenant	JAMES BONNEY	15 August 1917	VIEW RECORD 43rd Sqdn. RFC
RAY Second Lieutenant	PHILIP OLIPHANT	13 April 1917	VIEW RECORD 53rd Sqdn. RFC
ROBERTSON Second Lieutenant	ARCHIBALD GARDEN	08 June 1917 Age 19	VIEW RECORD 66th Sqdn. RFC

ATTACHMENT #7a

Royal Flying Corps – Report on Casualties to Personnel and Machines (When Flying). Army Form W3347. Air Ministry, Air Historical Branch. Image AIR1/857/204/5/413.



ROYAL [illegible] FORCE.

Army Form W 3347.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

REPORT ON CASUALTIES TO PERSONNEL AND MACHINES (WHEN FLYING).

INSTRUCTIONS: *To be rendered in duplicate by Squadrons to Wings. Wings to forward one copy to H.Q., R.F.C., through Brigades.*

No. 107 Squadron. No. 51st Wing. Date. 19th July, 1918

Type and No. of Machine: D.H.9 D 5684

Engine No.: 230 B.H.P. 8623 M.D. 24297

Pilot: Capt. R.E. Dubber

Observer: Lieut. C.B. Dickie

Duty: Bomb raid as detailed.

Locality: ~~Enemy Area~~ Unknown

Lewis guns carried, with gun Nos.: Lewis Gun No. 25865 Vickers Gun No. D 2504

Camera (Yes or No): No

Wireless (Yes or No): No

Other appliances (bomb racks, etc.): Bomb racks. Aldis 1-2". ~~Very Pistol~~. Bomb Sight and Instruments. ~~Pyrene Fire Extinguishers~~.

Where brought down: ~~Enemy Area~~ Unknown

Short report as to fate of personnel and machine, and cause of casualty. Date and time of leaving aerodrome. Any reports, messages or conjectures received, stating source: 18.7.18. Machine left Aerodrome at 6.33 am on bombing raid as detailed. Missing, no further details available.

~~Helmsort~~

I recommend that this machine be struck off No. 107 Squadron and R.A.F. in the Field.

Lt-Col. for Major, Commanding No. 107 Squadron. R.A.F.

Remarks by Wing Commander as to whether machine is to be struck off, repaired in Squadron or recommended for transfer to A.D. for repair:

STRUCK OFF CHARGE OF NO.107 SQUADRON AND R.A.F. IN THE FIELD.

TOTAL FLYING TIMES.

Machine :- 50 hrs. 00 mins.

Engine :- 21 " 55 "

Lieut.-Colonel, Commanding 51st. Wing. Royal Air Force. 20/7/18.

Remarks by Brigade Commander:

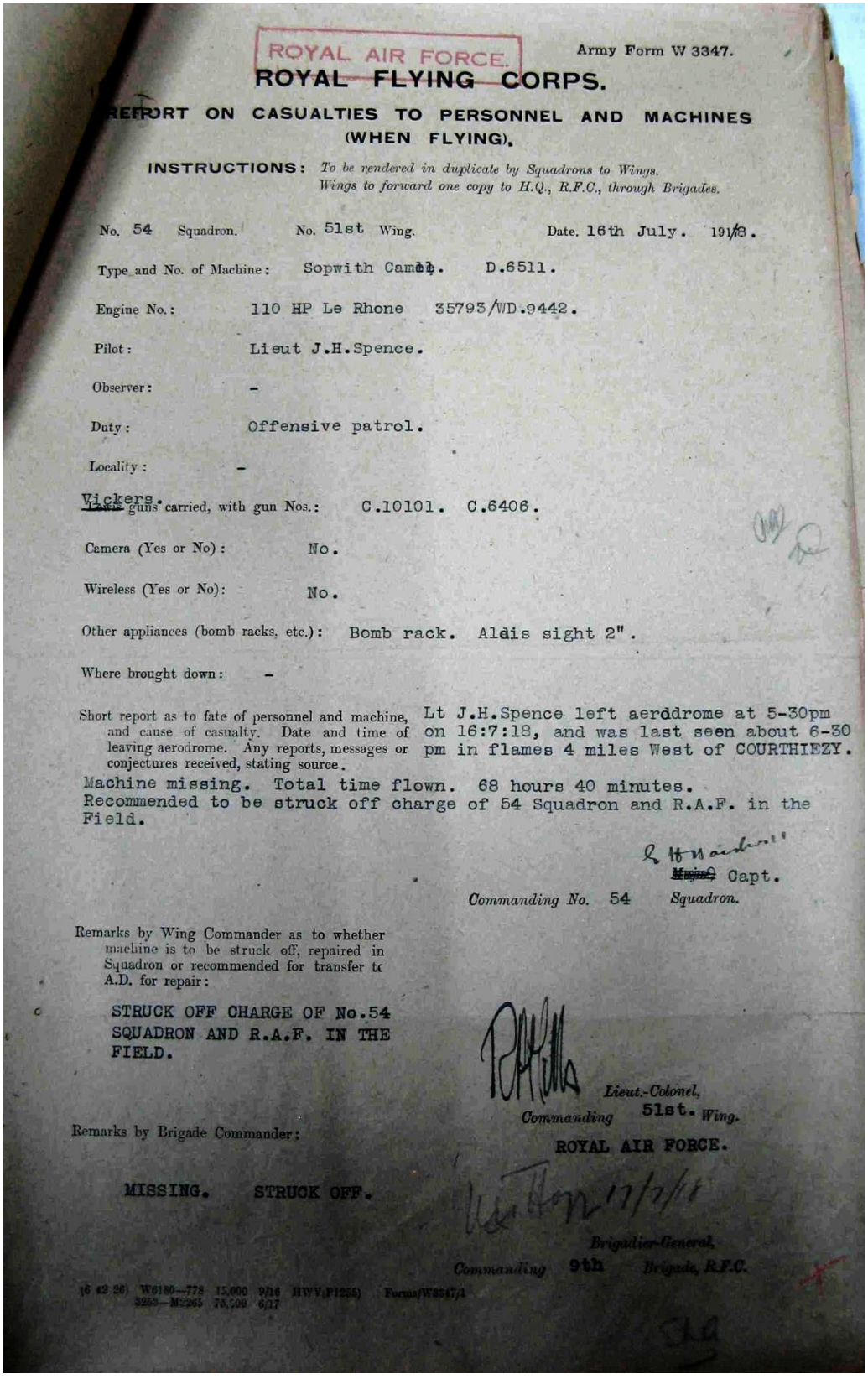
MISSING. STRUCK OFF.

Brigadier-General, Commanding 9th Brigade, R.F.C.

(6 42 26) W6668—M2875 150,000 8/17 HWV(bP863) Forms/W3347/3

ATTACHMENT #7b

Royal Flying Corps – Report on Casualties to Personnel and Machines (When Flying). Army Form W3347. Air Ministry, Air Historical Branch. Image AIR1/857/204/5/413.



ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Army Form W 3347.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

REPORT ON CASUALTIES TO PERSONNEL AND MACHINES (WHEN FLYING).

INSTRUCTIONS: *To be rendered in duplicate by Squadrons to Wings. Wings to forward one copy to H.Q., R.F.C., through Brigades.*

No. 54 Squadron. No. 51st Wing. Date. 16th July. 1918.

Type and No. of Machine: Sopwith Camel. D.6511.

Engine No.: 110 HP Le Rhone 35793/WD.9442.

Pilot: Lieut J.H.Spence.

Observer: -

Duty: Offensive patrol.

Locality: -

Guns carried, with gun Nos.: Vickers. C.10101. C.6406.

Camera (Yes or No): No.

Wireless (Yes or No): No.

Other appliances (bomb racks, etc.): Bomb rack. Aldis sight 2".

Where brought down: -

Short report as to fate of personnel and machine, and cause of casualty. Date and time of leaving aerodrome. Any reports, messages or conjectures received, stating source.

Lt J.H.Spence left aerddrome at 5-30pm on 16:7:18, and was last seen about 6-30 pm in flames 4 miles West of COURTHIEZY.

Machine missing. Total time flown. 68 hours 40 minutes.
Recommended to be struck off charge of 54 Squadron and R.A.F. in the Field.

R H Saunders Capt.

Commanding No. 54 *Squadron.*

Remarks by Wing Commander as to whether machine is to be struck off, repaired in Squadron or recommended for transfer to A.D. for repair:

STRUCK OFF CHARGE OF No.54 SQUADRON AND R.A.F. IN THE FIELD.

P H Wills

Lieut.-Colonel, Commanding 51st. *Wing.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Remarks by Brigade Commander:

MISSING. STRUCK OFF.

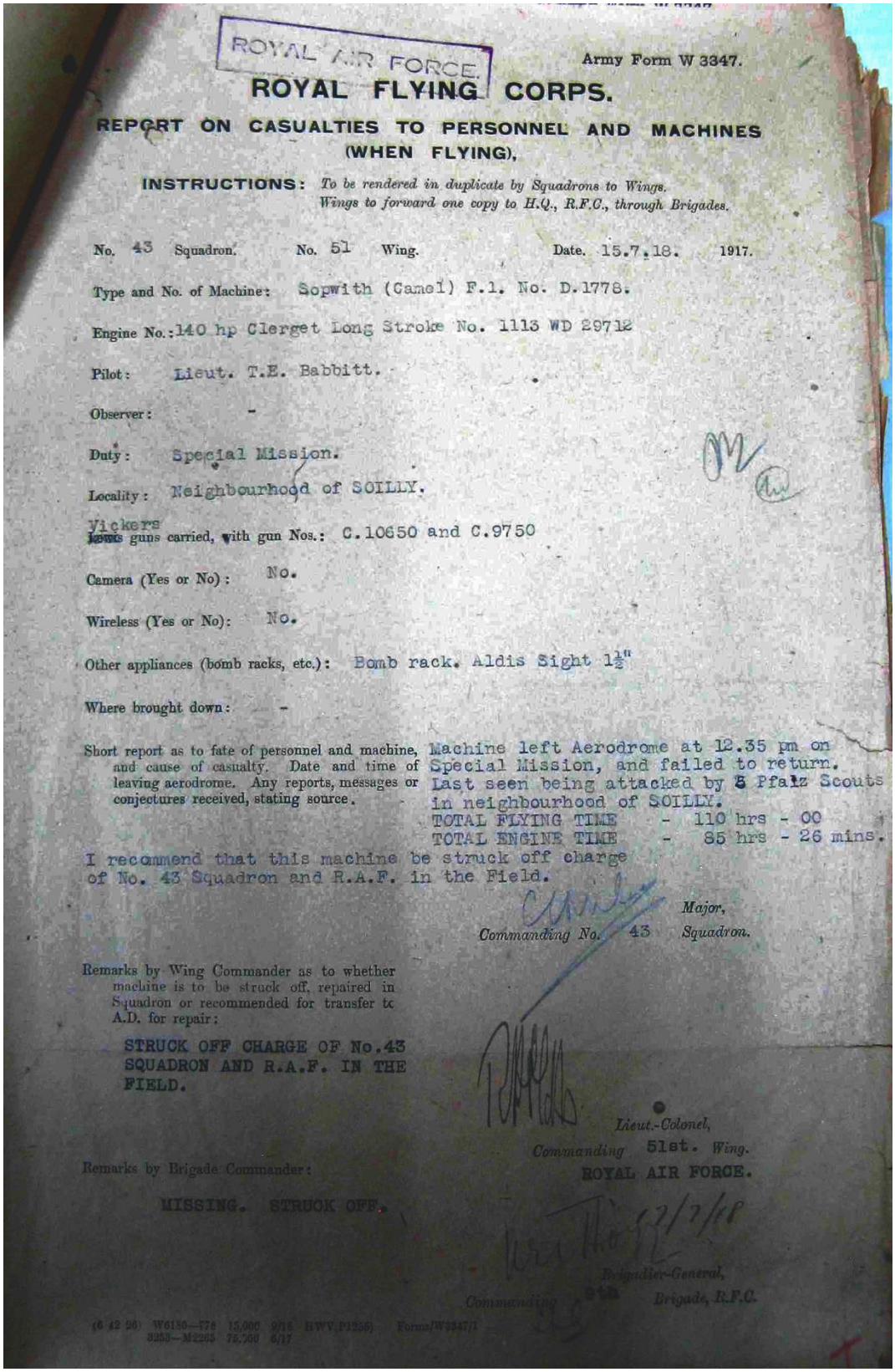
17/7/18

Brigadier-General, Commanding 9th *Brigade, R.F.C.*

(6 42 26) W6180—778 15,000 9/16 HWV.(P1255) Forms/W3347/1
3253—M2265 75,500 6/17

ATTACHMENT #7c

Royal Flying Corps – Report on Casualties to Personnel and Machines (When Flying). Army Form W3347. Air Ministry, Air Historical Branch. Image AIR1/857/204/5/413.



ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Army Form W 3347.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

REPORT ON CASUALTIES TO PERSONNEL AND MACHINES (WHEN FLYING).

INSTRUCTIONS: *To be rendered in duplicate by Squadrons to Wings. Wings to forward one copy to H.Q., R.F.C., through Brigades.*

No. 43 Squadron. No. 51 Wing. Date. 15.7.18. 1917.

Type and No. of Machine: Sopwith (Camel) F.1. No. D.1778.

Engine No.: 140 hp Clerget Long Stroke No. 1113 WD 29712

Pilot: Lieut. T.E. Babbitt.

Observer: -

Duty: Special Mission.

Locality: Neighbourhood of SOILLY.

Vickers
~~Lewis~~ guns carried, with gun Nos.: C.10650 and C.9750

Camera (Yes or No): No.

Wireless (Yes or No): No.

Other appliances (bomb racks, etc.): Bomb rack. Aldis Sight 1½"

Where brought down: -

Short report as to fate of personnel and machine, and cause of casualty. Date and time of leaving aerodrome. Any reports, messages or conjectures received, stating source.

Machine left Aerodrome at 12.35 pm on Special Mission, and failed to return. Last seen being attacked by 5 Pfalz Scouts in neighbourhood of SOILLY.
TOTAL FLYING TIME - 110 hrs - 00
TOTAL ENGINE TIME - 85 hrs - 26 mins.

I recommend that this machine be struck off charge of No. 43 Squadron and R.A.F. in the Field.

Major,
Commanding No. 43 Squadron.

Remarks by Wing Commander as to whether machine is to be struck off, repaired in Squadron or recommended for transfer to A.D. for repair:

STRUCK OFF CHARGE OF No.43 SQUADRON AND R.A.F. IN THE FIELD.

Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding 51st. Wing.
ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Remarks by Brigade Commander:

MISSING. STRUCK OFF.

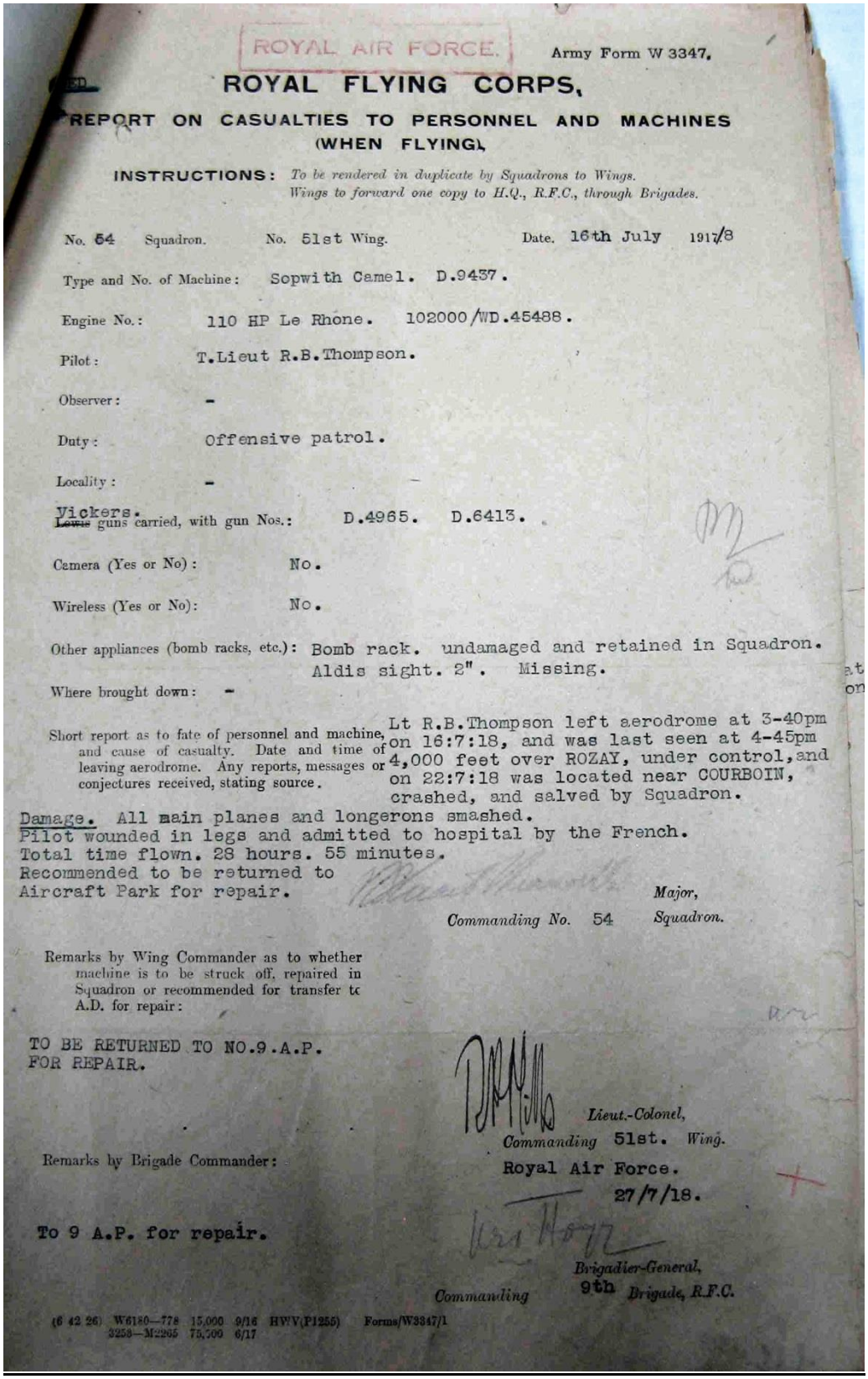
22/7/18

Brigadier-General,
Commanding 51st Brigade, R.F.C.

(6 42 26) W6136—778 15,000 9/16 HWV.P1256) Form/W3347/1
8253—M2265 75,000 6/17

ATTACHMENT #7d

Royal Flying Corps – Report on Casualties to Personnel and Machines (When Flying). Army Form W3347. Air Ministry, Air Historical Branch. Image AIR1/857/204/5/413.



ROYAL AIR FORCE. Army Form W 3347.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS,

REPORT ON CASUALTIES TO PERSONNEL AND MACHINES (WHEN FLYING).

INSTRUCTIONS: *To be rendered in duplicate by Squadrons to Wings. Wings to forward one copy to H.Q., R.F.C., through Brigades.*

No. 54 Squadron. No. 51st Wing. Date. 16th July 1917/8

Type and No. of Machine: Sopwith Camel. D.9437.

Engine No.: 110 HP Le Rhone. 102000/WD.45488.

Pilot: T.Lieut R.B.Thompson.

Observer: -

Duty: Offensive patrol.

Locality: -

~~Lewis~~ Vickers. guns carried, with gun Nos.: D.4965. D.6413.

Camera (Yes or No): No.

Wireless (Yes or No): No.

Other appliances (bomb racks, etc.): Bomb rack. undamaged and retained in Squadron. Aldis sight. 2". Missing.

Where brought down: -

Short report as to fate of personnel and machine, and cause of casualty. Date and time of leaving aerodrome. Any reports, messages or conjectures received, stating source.

Lt R.B.Thompson left aerodrome at 3-40pm on 16:7:18, and was last seen at 4-45pm 4,000 feet over ROZAY, under control, and on 22:7:18 was located near COURBOIN, crashed, and salved by Squadron.

Damage. All main planes and longerons smashed.
Pilot wounded in legs and admitted to hospital by the French.
Total time flown. 28 hours. 55 minutes.
Recommended to be returned to Aircraft Park for repair.

Major,
Commanding No. 54 Squadron.

Remarks by Wing Commander as to whether machine is to be struck off, repaired in Squadron or recommended for transfer to A.D. for repair:

TO BE RETURNED TO NO.9.A.P. FOR REPAIR.

Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding 51st. *Wing.*
Royal Air Force.
27/7/18.

Remarks by Brigade Commander:

To 9 A.P. for repair.

Brigadier-General,
Commanding 9th *Brigade, R.F.C.*

(6 42 26) W6180—778 15,000 9/16 HWV(P1255) Forms/W3347/1
3258—M2265 75,500 6/17

ATTACHMENT #8

This "*Reporting and Review*" attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Royal Flying Corps during the Great War 1914-1921.The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

This process differs from cases related to members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) as these do not go first to the CWGC Canadian Agency in Ottawa. We have modified the requirement information noted below to include CWGC criteria from their source material:

Guideline Criteria for Submission:	**Evidence and Source Material:**
Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.	Un-cited resources cannot be accepted as official evidence. Research conducted on the internet will only be accepted if supplied by a recognised authority such as the CWGC, National Archives etc. Any primary (contemporary) sources *e.g. the National Archives, CWGC, and Genealogical website original documentation etc.* must be copied and submitted with the case. The relevant pages of any secondary material *e.g. published reference books and articles; website material etc.* should also be copied and submitted. All sources must be correctly referenced as footnotes throughout the submission as well as cited in a complete bibliography of consulted sources Referencing is essential to any historical research and should contain some uniform elements.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	**Affiliation**	**E-mail**	**Contribution**
Richard Laughton Canada	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Investigator & Report Author
Trevor Henshaw England	Aviation Author and Historian The Sky Their Battlefield II	tstb2@outlook.com	Investigator & Report Author